

LA CHAÎNE

UNE INFOLETTRE DE
PUNK MONTRÉALAIS
+ D.I.Y. SHOW LISTING
#15 FEB 2024 — FREE



I bootlegged 106 Montreal sets in 2023, here's what I heard (Opinion)

In 2023, I bootlegged a little over 100 live sets in Montreal, and since the new year I've been reviewing, mastering, and archiving them all. A lot of the sets sound amazing, and a lot of them... don't. I'm not talking about how everyone plays, but just the sound. Echoing Pat's letter in La Chaîne #13, "if you want your band's political or artistic message to have a lasting impact, you have to rip." Just a few simple things can really elevate how your band sounds live, and the impact it will have on the audience. It was a bit striking to listen back to so many sets that sound really bad, from bands who deserve to sound a lot better. Listening to two sets recorded at the same show (same venue, same tech, same backline), there is often a stark contrast between one band and the next.

Montreal deserves to be on top, and sound is important, it is music after all! So here are some quick suggestions for sounding good live, based on what I heard in my recordings. Feel free to disregard. I'm not a sound engineer, I'm just an old jaded dude, and these are just my opinions. Some of this is probably a matter of taste. But, in my opinion, all the hype touring hardcore punk bands that you think rip live do these things, and your band deserves to sound just as good.

1. Be loud on stage. You may have to explain to the sound tech that you want your amps to be turned up as loud as possible.
2. The bass shouldn't be overpoweringly bass-y or muddy. You should be able to hear it, but it shouldn't be completely drowning out the guitar with indecipherable, muddy low-end.
3. Hardcore punk is (usually) guitar music. The guitar should be LOUD and sound hard and in-your-face.

4. Vocals should be audible, but not gratefully louder than everything else. Be careful at venues with a shitty PA that is only 2 speakers in front of the stage, or venues where your best friends are packed right at the stage (behind any PA). As singer you won't be able to hear yourself unless you've got a stage monitor. In most situations, your friends right in the front row won't hear you well at all, (and they might wrongly insist you need to turn it up). Turning up the vocals on the PA won't help you hear yourself, but it will make the vocals so loud for the rest of the room it can ruin the whole set.

5. Drummers must hit hard. A kit sounds different when it's hit hard, even if it's mic'd. And if you have the means, get some decent loud cymbals.

7. When you line check, have a designated friend whose ear you trust stand in the crowd and give you a quick feedback on levels. Should guitar go up? Bass down? Are the two guitarists balanced?

8. After the first song, stop at quickly ask the crowd or trusted friend how everything sounds. Adjust accordingly. If there are monitors and a sound tech, ask for adjustments there if you need to hear yourself better on stage.

9. Get a tuner pedal for each guitar/bass. Tune before your set, and tune again in the middle of the set.

10. Spend a few minutes at your practice space thinking about how the guitar and bass tone sound together. There are lots of different guitar and bass tones out there, and you want to make sure the instruments are complimentary and not wrecking each other when you play live. I admit this one is harder, especially for people newer to music, but it's something to pay attention to and think about.

— Martin

"En 2023 j'ai tenté de traduire le terme "legacy punk scene" pour une lettre publiée dans La Chaîne en bilingue. Voici le top 5 des idées rejetées:"

- Scène punk d'héritage (yark)
- Patrimoine de la scène punk (yark aussi)
- Legs de la scène punk (voyons donc)
- Domaine du Punk Ancien (c'pas du vin)
- Punk Ancien (franchement)

Listening to the Radio

Like many punks, we have a pretty sick tape-radio boombox in the kitchen. Sometimes I'll put on a podcast or a tape while I'm cooking or fixing a bike, but more often lately I tune into the radio. I should probably listen to french radio more often for practice, but I usually bounce between CKUT and CBC. I know CBC is far from perfect, but especially lately I've found that trying to catch a quick radio news segment (usually they happen on the hour) is my preferred way of staying up-to-date about what's going on in the world without getting sucked down into the clickbait minefield of news websites or social media.

Unrelatedly, here's some cool punk- and anarchist-adjacent radio shows — check them out!

—Taylor

**NOISE NOT BORDERS
PRESENTS LA HORA DEL RUIDO
CKUT 90.3FM — 1ST FRIDAY OF
THE MONTH, 2-3PM**

Local punks involved in organizing the Noise Not Borders fest present this music show once per month. "Our focus is to highlight the underground resistance in Latin punk, electronic music, reggaeton, heavy metal en Español, both locally and internationally."

**OTHER WORLDS ON EARTH
CKUT 90.3FM — 1ST THURSDAY
OF THE MONTH, 8-9PM**

"A radio show of unapologetic romanticism and utopian yearning for people with unlimited vision." Expect deep dives into counter-culture, counter-history, altered states, ethnobotany, radical anthropology, esoteric explorations, and other worlds on Earth.

**PRISON RADIO — CKUT 90.3FM
EVERY OTHER TUESDAY, 6-7PM**

"Prison Radio seeks to confront the invisibility of prisons and prisoner struggle, by focusing on the roots of incarceration, policing, and criminalization, and by challenging our ideas about what prisons are and the people inside our jails."



"Icky Appreciation
Section"

FEBRUARY + MARCH Shows en FÉVRIER + MARS

Thursday February 8 – Jeudi 8 février

GLOWING ORB, JETSAM, DIRTY MILK
@ La Sotterenea – 8pm/20h – \$10

Monday February 12 – Lundi 12 février

GENITAL SHAME (Pittsburgh), STANDER
(Chicago), LEASH AGGRESSION, POKMON
@ Turbo Haüs – 19h30/7:30pm

Thursday February 22 – Jeudi 22 février

Montreal Madhouse I: SCORCHING TOMB,
BRUISERWEIGHT, SCARAMANGA, CLONED
APPARITION, CHAIN BLOCK, FREEZERBURN
@ Foufs – doors 5pm/17h – \$60 (weekend pass)

Friday February 23 – Vendredi 23 février

Montreal Madhouse II: BÉTON ARMÉ, MIL-SPEC
(Toronto), NUKE, FRICTION (Toronto), REALITY
DENIED (St. Catharines), DEATHNAP, GLINT,
MULCH @ Foufs – doors 5pm/17h – show
6pm/18h – \$60 (pass, individual tickets out soon)

Saturday February 24 – Samedi 24 février

Montreal Madhouse III: STIGMATISM (NY/Mtl),
PLUS MINUS, PUFFER, DEADBOLT, APES
(Québec), PALE ACHE (Halifax), SPIRIT OF
VENGEANCE (Toronto), TOTAL NADA, VERIFY,
CROSSCHECK @ Foufs – doors 5pm/17h – show
6pm/18h – \$60 (pass, individual tickets out soon)

Thursday February 29 – Jeudi 29 février

Leap Year Show ft. FORENSICS (first show),
HUMAN FORM (Toronto), DUREX +TBA @ TraXide

Friday March 8 – Vendredi 8 mars

GAZM (second-to-last show), details TBA

Saturday March 9 – Samedi 9 mars

GAZM (last show), details TBA

Friday March 22 – Vendredi 22 mars

FLQ (Toronto), THE NOT, RECALL +TBA
@ l'Hémisphère Gauche

Saturday March 30 – Samedi 30 mars

SIYAHKAL (Toronto), PUNITIVE DAMAGE
(Vancouver), DESGRACIADOS (Calgary), WILL TO
SPEAK, PSYCHIC ARMOUR @ TBA

AskAPunk.net

- calendar of montreal shows + events
- browse and share
- submit your own
- no accounts, no tracking, no ads



QUOI DE NEUF?



TENAZ – "demo"

Finally! Six tracks of evocative,
catchy spanish-language punk
from this beloved local band.

physical tapes soon
tenaz.bandcamp.com



**LOBOTOMITE – "Anatomy is
Violence! / Demo 2024"**

If you missed LOBOTMITE at the
new band show, check out the
demo. Scary, noisy, grindey.

physical tapes soon
lobotomitemtl.bandcamp.com



LA CHAÎNE is a free, monthly-ish newsletter and show listing
from the Montreal DIY punk scene. We are always accepting
submissions in english and/or french of: punk shows, local
show reviews, new releases for review, photos, artwork and
classifieds (ISO bandmate/jamspace, missed connections, etc)

**THE DEADLINE TO SUBMIT TO THE NEXT
ISSUE (#16) IS FEBRUARY 21, 2024**

**How to reach LA CHAÎNE for submissions, rants,
love mail, anonymous tips, etc:**

email: la_chaine@riseup.net

text/call: GET-EVEN-270 (438-383-6270)

web: https://438punk.house/@la_chaine
(back issues are posted on archive.org)

physical copies: at a punk show or in the newspa-
per box near the corner of [redacted]